By the King.

A Proclamation for Reformation of the great abuſes in Weights and Meaſures, and for the due execution of the Office of Clerke of the Market of Our Houſhold, and throughout Our Realme of England.

WHereas by the Lawes and Statutes of this Our Realme of England, there ſhould be but one weight and one Meaſure throughout the whole Realme; yet neuertheleſſe we are informed that there are at this day in Cities, Burroughs, and Corporate Townes, and in many other parts and places of this Our Realme (eſpecially in the Northerne and weſterne parts, and in Our Counties Palatine of Lancaſter and Durham, and Dominion of Wales, falſe and deceitfull weights and Meaſures of different contents one from another, and all diſagreeing from Our Standard, appointed to be the rule and direction for them: And whereas wee are alſo informed, that many vnconſcionable perſons, haue, and doe vſe ſeuerall weights and Meaſures, with the greater to buy, and with the leſſer to ſell; and doe alſo vſe falſe and deceitfull beames and ballances, to the great loſſe and defrauding of Our Subiects, and eſpecially of the poorer ſort, who are moſt ſenſible of the ſame:

And whereas the Clerke of Our Market, by the Lawes and Statutes of this Realme, ought by his Office to enquire of the ſayde abuſes, and to puniſh and reforme the ſame, and ought alſo to ſet reaſonable and indifferent Rates and Prizes vpon Victuals and other prouiſions, chiefly in times of Our Progreſſe; and to foreſee that the ſame bee wholeſome and of good condition and qualitie in their ſeuerall ſorts, and ought alſo to inflict aſwell pecuniarie as corporall puniſhment vpon the offendours, according to the ſeuerall qualities and degrees of their offences:

And whereas complaint hath beene made vnto Vs of the great negligence vſed in the execution of the ſaid Office; partly, for that diuers which are truſted as Deputies to execute the ſame, haue beene hitherto ignorant what their Power and Authoritie is, and partly, becauſe diuers of them haue bene very careleſſe, and remiſſe, and reſpecting onely their owne priuate gaines, extort vniuſt Fees, and either for fauour or reward ſpare the Offenders, and neglect the publike Seruice wherewith they are truſted.

Wee therefore hauing taken the Premiſſes into conſideration, and foreſeeing how much the plentie of this Realme might be increaſed, and the frauds and abuſes now generally vſed in buying and ſelling, (eſpecially by Inne-keepers and Victuallers) might bee ſuppreſſed, if the Clerke of Our Market by himſelfe, or by honeſt and diſcreet Deputies, did diligently and faithfully intend the execution of the ſaid Office: And we deſiring nothing more (after the eſtabliſhing of true Religion, and the Seruice of Almighty God) then by all good meanes to further and aduance the Peace and Plenty of Our louing Subiects, haue thought fit by this Our Royall Proclamation, to publiſh and make knowen to all Our louing Subiects, aſwell, what by the Lawes and Statutes of this Realme ſhould and ought to bee performed by the Clerke of Our Market and his Deputies, as what Fees they may iuſtly require and take, and what courſes they ſhould hold for the better execution of their Seruice, and what Accompt Wee expect, and haue determined to require at their hands, concerning this Seruice hereafter.

53346
74

First, Wee doe hereby signifie and declare, that the Office of the Clerke of Our Market, (being a very ancient Office of Our Crowne) by the Lawes and Statutes of Our Realme, ought to enquire of all abuses in Weights, Beames, Ballances, and Measures; and ought also to enquire of all Falsities, deceipts and abuses in the Trades of Millers, Bakers, Brewers, Vinteners, Inne-keepers, Alehouse-keepers, Cookes, Victuallers, Fishmongers, Butchers, Chandelers, Grocers, Mercers, Clothiers, Clothworkers, Weauers, Tailours, Brokers, Tanners, Shooemakers, Smiths, Glouers, White-tawers, Maulsters, Corne-masters, Colliers, Woodmongers, and generally of all other Artificers, Tradesmen, and other persons whatsoeuer, hauing or vsing Weights or Measures, aswell to preuent deceipts and frauds, as to punish the same.

Also he ought to search and inquire, that all Victuals and other things put to sale by them, for the sustenance or vse of mans body, and all prouisions for their Horses or their Cattell be wholsome, and of good qualitie, and that their Manufactures be well and workemanlike made and wrought, and that they sell at, and for reasonable and moderate gaines, and not at vnreasonable and excessiue prices.

And further, That they ought especially to inquire of, and punish all Forestallers, Ingrossers, and Regrators, who by their inordinate desire of gaine, doe inhaunse the prices of all things vendible, to the decay and ouerthrow of all publique and open Markets, and the hinderance of all Traffique and Commerce betweene man and man; and to the intent that the Clerke of Our Market may put in due execution that power, which by the Law is giuen vnto him, for the furtherance of Our Seruice, and the seruice of Our Common Wealth; Wee doe will and straitly commaund, That the Clerke of our Market, and his Deputies, doe from henceforth with all diligence execute the sayd Office in all places, aswell within the Verge, in the times of our Progresse, that our Nobles, Seruants, Traine, and Suitors attending vpon our Person, and Court may be well and honestly vsed and demeaned, as in all other places and parts of this our Realme whatsoeuer; And that from henceforth hee keepe his Sessions by himselfe, or his sufficient Deputie or Deputies, once in euery yeere at the least, in the seuerall Counties of this Our Realme, and in as many places of euery County, as shall be most conuenient for the generall performance of the Seruice, and ease of our people: And that he or they giue knowledge in writing, of the Times and places, when and where their Sessions shalbe held by Precept, vnder Our Seale of the sayd Office, to bee directed to the high Constables within the circuit of the Sessions, a conuenient time before such Sessions are to bee held: And that one or more of the Justices of the Peace of the Countie, inhabiting within the circuit of that Sessions, may vpon reasonable notice bee present at euery Sessions, the better to assist the Clerke of the Market, and to see Justice equally and indifferently executed: And that the Clerke of Our Market, and his Deputies, doe diligently inquire by the Oathes of twelue men at the least, to be impannelled, returned, and sworne by him or them, in such maner as anciently they haue bene accustomed, of all Offences committed within the Precinct of that Sessions, contrary to the Lawes, and inquirable by them.

And that the chiefe Constables of the Hundreds and the pettie Constables of euery Parish, and all other inhabitants there shall vpon their Oathes, (being thereunto required by Our Clerke of Our Market, or his Deputy) giue euidence to the Jurie so to bee impannelled. And because We are informed that the greatest deceipts and abuses are committed, in Cities, Bourroughs and Townes Corporate, by the chiefe Officers there, who ought to reforme themselues and others within their seueral Jurisdictions: Our expresse Will & Commandement is, that they take speciall knowledge of our pleasure herein, and bend themselues to a speedie Reformation and Conformitie thereunto: And We Will and command Our Clerke of Our Market, and his Deputies to giue vs, or Our Councell true Information of such persons as shall be found remisse or refractarie herein, To the ende that they may be proceeded against in such a course as their contempt shall deserue.

And because We are informed, that the Buyers (the poorer sort especially) are much pinched, by sleights and deceipts vsed in measuring: Wee doe therefore hereby command the Clerke of Our Market, and his Deputies in all their Sessions, to make carefull and diligent enquirie of all such falsities and deceipts, and that they suppresse all hooped Measures, which are or may be remooued deceiptfully at pleasure. And We doe charge and command, that no Inholder or Hostler, vse any measure of Straw, or Wicker, or double Measure, to sell, or vtter their Prouender by: nor vse any Hosterie measure, but such as shalbe sized & sealed by Our Clerke of Our Market. And that euery of them haue such a sealed Measure, continually hanging by a chaine at the doore of their Hosterie, & all the rest of their Measures in their Hosteries to be answerable thereunto, & sealed, that so the Traueller, or Passenger may not be deceiued of his due measure. And

533464

further, that there be no Weights, or Measures vsed, by any person or persons whatsoeuer, but such as shall be of such matter and substance, as are fit to receiue and retaine the impression of Our Seale, and such as shall be sized by our Standard, and sealed as aforesaid, and accordingly allowed and sealed by Our Clerke of our Market. And that no person or persons whatsoeuer, doe buy or sell, by any other Weights or Measures, nor vent their Commodities otherwise, but by such sealed Weights and measures as aforesaid.

And Wee doe straitly charge and commaund our Clerke of Our Market, and his Deputies, that when any offence shall be discouered, and duely found out by them or any of them, that hee or they doe not neglect nor omit (either for fauour or reward) to assesse reasonable Fines, and other punishments vpon the offenders, according to the natures & qualities of their offences, and the condition of the offendours; And the same being so assessed, that hee and they cause the same to bee duly estreated and leuied vpon the offendours, for the vse of Vs, Our Heires and Successours, by such Waies and meanes, as by the Lawes and Statutes of this Our Realme are warranted and appointed, and that herein they faile not, as they tender our high displeasure, or would auoide that punishment which their negligence herein shall deserue. And because Our Clerke of the Market of Our Houshold, and his Deputies, may bee encouraged to execute their places with diligence and integritie, and may haue their iust and reasonable Fees allowed, and may not exact vniust Fees or Rewards, to the griefe or oppression of Our louing Subiects; Wee haue thought fit heerewithall to limit and expresse the due Fees, which he or his Deputies onely (and none other such Officer) may require and take, as the same haue bene lately examined and approoued of, by the Lords and others Our Officers of our Greenecloth, and so remaine recorded in our Counting house; a Schedule whereof Wee haue hereunto annexed. And if it shall happen our said Clerke or any of his Deputies, in the execution of their said places, by cutting or paring any Weight or Measure, shall spoile or impayre the same; Our Will and Pleasure is, that then hee or they shall make present payment of the value thereof to the owner, or if he shall directly or indirectly exact or take any greater Fee or reward then by the said Schedule is expressed, vpon complaint made by any of our louing Subiects, finding themselues iustly grieued therewith, to the Lord Steward, Treasurer, or Comptroller of our house, the party offending shall haue his deserued punishment, and the partie wronged shall haue speedie recompence for the same.

And to the intent that Our Seruice may be the better performed, we straitly charge and command Our Clerke of Our Market, that hee make no Deputy from henceforth, but such as shall bee of sufficiencie & ability to performe the place, and which shall not himselfe be either Vintener, Inne-holder, Victualler, or other Tradesman, vsing the Trade of Buying and Selling: And that this Our Proclamation for the better instructing of all Our louing Subiects, shall before the Feast of All Saints now next comming, bee proclaimed in euery Market Towne throughout our Realme, and bee hanged vp and fastened in a Table in euery Market place by an Officer, where it may continue to be seene and read by any that will.

And further, That it shall be read in euery Parish Church before the said Feast of All Saints next comming, in a fit time and space, betweene the beginning and ending of Common Prayer vpon the Sunday or Holy day, by the Minister or Clerke of the Church, and so from thenceforth once at euery Feast of the Annunciation of the blessed Virgin Mary, and once at euery Feast of Saint Michael the Arch-angel, by the space of Fiue yeeres next comming; and shall be hanged vp and preserued in euery Church in a Table, to be seene and read at all times by any that will. And that the defaults of Officers, Ministers, Clerkes, and Church-wardens in this behalfe, shalbe enquired of, and punished by our Justices of Assize, and Justices of Peace in their Sessions, according to their discretions, as contemners of our Royall commandement. And Wee doe straitly will and command, That all our Justices of Assize, Justices of Peace, Sheriffes, Our Clerke of the Market, his Deputie or Deputies, and all Mayors, Bailiffes, and other Officers of Cities, Boroughs, Liberties and Townes corporate, high Constables, petty Constables, Tithing-men, and other Our Officers and Ministers, in all places whersoeuer, doe cause this present Proclamation to be duely executed, and to bee from time to time ayding and assisting to their vttermost, vnto Our Clerke of Our Market, and his Deputies, in the due execution of his Office, as they tender Our Seruice herein, the Common Wealth of this Realme, and our high displeasure.

Giuen at White-hall, the second day of February, in the Sixteenth yeere of Our Reigne of England, France and Ireland, and of Scotland the two and Fiftieth.

53340+

¶ A Declaration of the Fees due to the Clerke of the Market, of his Maiesties most Honorable Houshold, and all England, for the execution of his Office, set forth in *Anno regni Regis* IACOBI *Angliæ &c. xiiij.* ANNO DOM. 1616.

FIrst, for sealing of euery new bushell, for entring the same, with the name and dwelling place of the Owner thereof. iiii.d.

Item, for sealing of euery halfe bushell, for entring the same, the Owners name, and dwelling place. ii.d.

Item, for new Sealing of euery lesser Measure or Weight, for entring the same, with the names and dwelling places of the Owners thereof. i.d.

Item, for recording of euery Victuallers name, his dwelling place, and for veiwing and examination of euery particular Victuallers Ale and Beere Measures, be they neuer so many, and for entring the same. ii.d.

Item, for recording of euery Inholders and Vintners name, and dwelling place, and for viewing, or examination of euery particuler Inholders and Vintners Ale and Beere, Wine, and Hostery Measures, be they neuer so many, and for entring the same. iiii.d.

Item, for recording of the names and dwelling places of euery Butcher, Groter, Chandeller, Mercer, Draper, Clothier, or any other person, entring of all their Weights, Measures, Elles, Yards, Beames and Ballances, and for trying and examination of the same, bee they neuer so many. ii.d.

Item, for new Sealing of euery Elle or Yard, at both ends, entring the same, with the names and dwelling places of the owners thereof. ii.d.

Item, for Trying and examination of euery Bushell formerly sealed, entring the same with the name and dwelling place of the owners thereof. ii.d.

Item, for the Trying or examination of euery lesser Measure formerly Sealed, entring of the same, with the name and dwelling place of the owners thereof. i.d.

Item, for Trying and examination of euery Weight and Measure of any person or persons, that shall be found repugnant vnto his Maiesties Standard, which shall sell any Commodities by a lesser Weight or Measure, or shall buy any Commodities by a greater Weight or Measure, to the deceipt of the Subiects. ii.d.

God saue the King.

Imprinted at London by Bonham Norton, and Iohn Bill, Printers to the Kings most *Excellent Maiestie.*

ANNO M.DC.XVIII.

75

533464